

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-15

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BUENOS 01067 100002Z

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 MMO-01 A-02 PER-01 10-14
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R 071846Z FEB 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9393

BUENOS AIRES 1067

E.O. 12065 N/A
TAGS AFSP, AR, SHUM, AODE
SUBJECT LOCAL HIRE REQUEST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANT

REF: STATE 284523

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REQUESTS DEPARTMENTAL
AUTHORIZATION TO CREATE A NEW POSITION FOR AN FSM
HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANT. END SUMMARY.

1. HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES HAVE BECOME A PRINCIPAL
DETERMINANT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF
ARGENTINA. DURING THREE YEARS OF HARSH ANTI-SUBVERSIVE
MEASURES BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT MANY THOUSANDS
OF ARGENTINES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED, INCLUDING MANY
HUNDRES WHOSE CASES HAVE BECOME OF INTEREST TO US
CITIZENS INCLUDING MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER
AMERICANS OF DISTINCTION AND PRESTIGE. THUS IN
ADDITION TO GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING AND
POLICY CONCERNS, "CASEWORK" HAS BECOME A MAJOR EMBASSY
RESPONSIBILITY. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAS BECOME A
BEACON OF HOPE TO HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES OF
DISAPPEARED AND DETAINED PERSONS WHO COME TO THE EMBASSY TO
REPORT THEIR CASES AND SEEK USG ASSISTANCE.
THESE INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BECOME IN TURN THE
EMBASSY'S PRINCIPAL METHOD OF GUAGING HUMAN
RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN ARGENTINA.

2. IN ORDER TO CHART THESE HUMAN RIGHTS EVENTS THE
EMBASSY BEGAN USING IN LATE 1977 AN AID CONTRACT
EMPLOYEE, WHOSE OWN WORK WAS WINDING DOWN, TO
COLLECT AND ORGANIZE CASE DATA FROM PERSONAL
INTERVIEWS, HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, AND PRESS
ACCOUNTS. A HUMAN RIGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM WAS
STARTED WHICH NOW CONTAINS OVER 8500 REPORTED
CASES, SOME 804 OF WHICH ARE FLAGGED AS "HIGH
INTEREST" BECAUSE OF INQUIRIES FROM THE UNITED STATES.

3. THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANT POSITION NOW BEING PERFORMED ON
CONTRACTUAL BASIS, IS PRESENTLY
CHARGED WITH THE FOLLOWING TASKS:

A. PREPARING INQUIRIES ON UNITED STATES' INTEREST
CASES FOR PRESENTATION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS (FOWG). IN 1978
THE INCUMBENT PREPARED 471 SUCH INQUIRIES ON
BEHALF OF CONGRESSMEN, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS,
US CITIZENS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.
(SEE FOR EXAMPLE BA-309 AND BA-553).

B. RESEARCHING AND DRAFTING ROUTINE REPLIES TO
CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS CASES.
IN THE LAST YEAR THE INCUMBENT HAS PREPARED 304
SUCH CONGRESSIONALS, MOST IN THE FORM OF "H PASS"
TELEGRAMS. (SEE FOR EXAMPLE BA-089, BA-432, BA-737).

C. RECEIVING, DEBRIEFING, AND SCREENING OVER
100 PERSONS EACH MONTH REPORTING ON DISAPPEARANCE
AND DETENTION CASES TO THE USG. ALL NEW, UNUSUAL,
OR NON-LOCAL CASES ARE REFERRED TO THE EMBASSY'S
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER. CARDS ARE PREPARED

AND CONTINUALLY UPDATED WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS
INFORMATION.

D. REVIEWING AND INCORPORATING INFORMATION
FROM HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION AND THE MEDIA INTO
THE EMBASSY'S HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION SYSTEM.
THIS ENTAILS DETAILED WORK TO SCREEN THE LISTS
OF CASES AGAINST THE DATA FILE'S CURRENT INFORMATION
TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND RESULTANT OVERCOUNTING.

SADLY, THERE ARE MANY SUCH LISTS. IN THE PAST
EIGHT WEEKS, THE INCUMBENT HAS SCREENED NINE LISTS
CONTAINING OVER 10,000 ENTRIES WHICH RESULTED
IN OVER 1100 NEW INFORMATION ITEM ENTRIES.

E. RESEARCHING AND DRAFTING REPLIES TO ROUTINE
CORRESPONDENCE IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH FROM US
AND ARGENTINA CITIZENS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS
WRITING TO THE PRESIDENT, THE AMBASSADOR, THE SECRETARY
AND OTHER SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS REGARDING
HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. IN 1978 OVER 350 SUCH LETTERS WERE
PREPARED.

F. MAINTAINING CURRENT STATISTICS ON DIS-
APPEARANCES, REAPPEARANCES, AND POLITICAL PRISONERS.
(SEE BE-553 AND 78 BA 9209 FOR EXAMPLES).

4. DEPARTMENTAL ACTION REQUESTED.....
GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONS AND THE RESULTANT RESPONSIBILITIES PLACED ON
THE EMBASSY, THE NEED TO MAINTAIN UP TO DATE FILES ON HUMAN
RIGHTS CASES AND TO PERMIT RESPONSIVE AND TIMELY
REPLIES TO CONGRESSIONAL INFO REQUESTS, EMBASSY REQUESTS
THAT THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE A PERMANENT PROGRAM POSITION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANT. PLEASE ADVISE AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. THIS ALREADY IMPORTANT JOB WILL BE OF
CRITICAL IMPORTANCE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IN PREPARING
FOR THE MAY, 1979 SITE VISIT TO ARGENTINA OF THE INTER-
AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.
CASTRO

DECONTROL

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full DECONTROL

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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ACT ID UNCLASSIFIED COPY

Department of State

2/7/79

INCOMING TELEGRAM R

PAGE 01 BUENOS 01068 080731Z
ACTION HA-05

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BUENOS 01068 080731Z

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
OCS-06 SS-15 NSC-05 EUR-12 CA-01 /080 W
-----100811 090333Z /23

R 071840Z FEB 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9394

BUENOS AIRES 1068

E.O. 12065: MA
TAGS: SHUM, CARR, QAS/ AR
SUBJECT: IACHR VISIT: DISAPPEARANCE OF US CITIZENS

1. THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (IACHR) IS PREPARING A MAJOR REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AND PLANS TO VISIT ARGENTINA MAY 29-JUNE 6, 1979. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, TWO UNITED STATES CITIZENS, MR. BILLY LEE HUNT AND MR. JON PIRMIN AROZARENA WERE ABDUCTED IN MENDOZA AND BUENOS AIRES RESPECTIVELY DURING APRIL 1977. EMBASSY EFFORTS TO LOCATE THESE MISSING AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO REPORT THAT IT HAS NO RECORD OF THE DETENTION OF EITHER PERSON OR INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR WHEREABOUTS.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THESE TWO AMERICAN CITIZEN DISAPPEARANCE CASES SHOULD BE CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE IACHR AS PART OF OUR EFFORT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DOCUMENT THE SITUATION OF THESE AMERICAN CITIZENS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SWEDEN, ITALY AND SPAIN ARE CONSIDERING PRESENTING INFORMATION TO THE IACHR REGARDING THEIR MISSING NATIONALS IN ARGENTINA. IF THE DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT PRESENTATION OF THIS INFORMATION TO THE IACHR IS APPROPRIATE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO PREPARE CASE SYNOPSIS:

3. BILLY LEE HUNT
DPOB: MAY 6, 1948, LEBANON, TENNESSEE
PPT: 288400 ISSUED MARCH 9, 1954, WASHINGTON, D.C.
ABDUCTED: APRIL 8, 1977, MENDOZA.
HUNT WAS PICKED UP IN DOWNTOWN MENDOZA BY UNIDENTIFIED MEN IN PLAIN CLOTHES ON APRIL 8, 1977. HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN HELD BY THE EIGHT ARMY BRIGADE AT THE MENDOZA PENITENTIARY. ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPLIED ON JANUARY 18, 1979 TO THE US EMBASSY'S LATEST INQUIRY ON MR. HUNT'S DETENTION THAT THE GOA HAS NO RECORD OF MR. HUNT'S ARREST OF INFORMATION ABOUT HIS WHEREABOUTS. THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTED THAT INQUIRIES REGARDING MR. HUNT WERE MADE TO ARGENTINE THIRD CORPS AUTHORITIES IN MENDOZA, SPECIFICALLY TO JEFATURA III (G-3) PLANS AND OPERATIONS AND JEFATURA I (G-1) PERSONNEL.

4. JON PIRMIN AROZARENA
DPOB: JUNE 20, 1961, CARACAS, VENEZUELA
PPT: 2510275 ISSUED JANUARY 25, 1966, BUENOS AIRES
ABDUCTED: APRIL 30, 1977, CALLE ARIAS 1640, BUENOS AIRES
MR. AROZARENA WAS ABDUCTED FROM HIS HOME IN BUENOS AIRES AT 10 AM, APRIL 30, 1977 BY FOUR UNIDENTIFIED ARMED MEN IN CIVILIAN DRESS. FAMILY BELIEVES THAT THE MEN WERE MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES. ARMED MEN STAYED AT THE AROZARENA'S RESIDENCE FOR FOUR DAYS AND WAITED FOR AROZARENA TO RETURN. WHEN HE RETURNED ON APRIL 30, THEY TOOK HIM AWAY TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION. MEMBERS OF AROZARENA'S FAMILY

WERE ALLOWED TO GO OUT TO SHOP BUT WERE INSTRUCTED NOT TO TELL ANYONE WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT THEIR HOME. ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPLIED ON JANUARY 18,

1979 TO THE US EMBASSY'S LATEST INQUIRY ON MR. AROZARENA'S DETENTION THAT THE GOA HAS NO RECORD OF MR. AROZARENA'S ARREST OR INFORMATION ABOUT HIS WHEREABOUTS. INQUIRIES IN THIS CASE WERE MADE WITH FEDERAL POLICE AUTHORITIES IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL AND IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, AND ALSO WITH THE ARGENTINE ARMY.
CASTRO

Argentina

*Pass. 2 & 3
3/14/79 for presentation to IACHR
PZ*

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Exclude ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

☒ In Part ☒ In Full DECONTROL

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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